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U R G E N T

CIA PHONE

WASHINGTON, MAY 25 (AP)--A PUBLIC INVESTIGATION OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES WAS AUTHORIZED TODAY BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE. HOUSE LEADERS, TAKEN BY SURPRISE, MOVED TO KEEP A TIGHT CHECKREIN ON THE PROBE.

THE INVESTIGATION WAS ORDERED WITHOUT FANFARE BY CHAIRMAN HOWARD W. SMITH, D-VA., OF THE RULES COMMITTEE, WHICH EARLIER HAD SHELVED A SCORE OF PROPOSALS TO PROBE THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) AND OTHER GLOAK-AND-DAGGER ACTIVITIES OF THE DEFENSE AND STATE DEPARTMENTS.

SMITH NAMED A FIVE MAN SUBCOMMITTEE TO MAKE THE STUDY AND GAVE IT AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD HEAR OUTSIDE WITNESSES AND CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS. NORMALLY, THE RULES COMMITTEE HEARS ONLY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

CREATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOLLOWED SHORTLY PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S DECLARATION IN A SPECIAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS THAT THE SUBJECT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES "IS NOT A MATTER OF WHICH PUBLIC DISCUSSION IS USEFUL."

THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL BE HEADED BY REP. RAY J. MAIDEN, D-IND. OTHER MEMBERS NAMED BY SMITH ARE REPS. JAMES J. DELANEY, D-N.Y., B.F. SISK, D-CALIF., CLARENCE J. BROWN, R-OHIO, AND M. ALLEN SMITH, R-CALIF.

MAIDEN SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT HE FAVORS PUBLIC HEARINGS TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY DO NOT INVOLVE NATIONAL SECURITY.

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